

MACAULAY'S CHARACTER OF JAMES II

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was transported to Jamaica, and suffered much on the voyage thither, during which twenty-two out of the ninety-nine prisoners on board his ship died. But he was well treated when he reached Jamaica, save for the hardship of being obliged to work without pay for a planter. Another narrative, one not quoted by Macaulay, is A Relation of the Great Sufferings and Strange Adventures of Henry Pitman.¹ Pitman was sent to Barbados ; nine out of his company of a hundred died on the way. He was beaten and set in the stocks by his master and otherwise ill-treated, but managed to get a boat and escape with half a dozen prisoners whose adventures he tells.

The question whether James or Jeffreys was responsible for these severities has been much discussed. According to Macaulay ' no English sovereign has ever given stronger proofs of a cruel nature than James II. . . , Jeffreys was a judge after his master's own heart". The King watched ' what he facetiously called his Lord Chief Justice's campaign in the West' with ' interest and delight *. Macaulay continues :

At a later period, when men of all parties spoke with horror of the Bloody Assizes, the wicked Judge and the wicked King attempted to vindicate themselves by throwing the blame on each other. Jeffreys, in the Tower, protested that, in his utmost cruelty, he had not gone beyond his

master's express orders, nay, that he had
fallen short of
them. James, at Saint Germain's, would
willingly have
had it believed that his own inclinations had
been on the
side of clemency, and that unmerited obloquy
had been
brought on him by the violence of his
minister. But
neither of these hardhearted men must be
absolved at the
expense of the other. The plea set up for
James can be

¹ Published in 1689 ; reprinted in vol. **vii** of Arber's
English Gamer (3
vols.; 1877-96) and in Stuart Tracts (1903).